

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 17-23 with the following amended paragraph:

Degradation of the optical transmission quality due to excessive attenuation or difference between dark current and photocurrent ~~photocurrent~~ U , can be detected by the transmit/receive module S/E_n or S/E_{n+1} . During a low level at the optical data input of the module, a detected error is reported at the data output of the star coupler via a brief low impulse as an additional input signal Di_n , Di_{n+1} .